Commission Meeting

of

NEW JERSEY COMMISSION
ON CAPITAL BUDGETING AND PLANNING

LOCATION: 33 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey

DATE: December 7, 2018
10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION PRESENT:

James M. Rutala, Chair
Eugene Lepore, Vice Chair
Senator Paul A. Sarlo
Assemblyman John DiMaio
Justin Braz
Catherine Z. Brennan
Dennis Zeveloff

ALSO PRESENT:

Guy Bocage
Executive Director

Luke E. Wolff
Senate Majority
Commission Aide

David F. Patella
Assistant Executive Director

Jade Bechelli
Assembly Majority
Commission Aide

Daniel Nason
Brian Onda
Budget Specialists
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(The New Jersey Commission on Capital Budgeting and Planning held a meeting on December 7, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. Members of the Commission present via teleconference were James M. Rutala, Eugene Lepore, Senator Paul A. Sarlo, Assemblyman John DiMaio, Justin Braz, Catherine Z. Brennan, and Dennis Zeveloff.)

JAMES M. RUTALA (Chair): I want to call the meeting to order.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Commission has provided adequate notice of this meeting by giving written notice of the time, date, and location. The notice of the meeting has been filed at least 48 hours in advance by mail and/or fax to the Trenton Times and the Newark Star-Ledger, and filed with the Secretary of State.

Okay; roll call.

MR. BOCAGE (Commission Executive Director): Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Present.

MR. BOCAGE: Senator Thompson. (no response)

Assemblywoman Sumter. (no response)

Assemblyman DiMaio.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiMAIO: Here.

MR. BOCAGE: Ms. Catherine Brennan.

MS. BRENNAN: Present.

MR. BOCAGE: Ms. Jo-Ann Povia. (no response)

Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.
MR. ZEVELOFF: Present.
MR. BOCAGE: Mr. Justin Braz.
MR. BRAZ: Present.
MR. BOCAGE: Mr. Eugene Lepore.

EUGENE LEPORE (Vice Chair): Here.
MR. BOCAGE: And Chair Rutala.
MR. RUTALA: Here.
MR. BOCAGE: And we have a quorum.

First, let's take action on approval of the minutes of November 16, 2018.

Are there any questions or comments? (no response)
If not, can I have a motion to approve?

MS. BRENNAN: Motion.
ASSEMBLYMAN DiMAIO: Second.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; roll call.

MR. BOCAGE: And please, for those of you who are calling in, especially those from the various agencies, before you speak if you could mention your name? Because we are transcribing this meeting and we’d like your name to accompany the minutes.

So we’ll now take the vote on the motion to approve the minutes.

Senator Sarlo.

SENATOR SARLO: Yes.

MR. BOCAGE: Assemblyman DiMaio.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiMAIO: Yes.
MR. BOCAGE: Ms. Catherine Brennan.
MS. BRENNAN: Yes.
MR. BOCAGE: Mr. Dennis Zeveloff.
MR. ZEVELOFF: Yes.
MR. BOCAGE: Mr. Justin Braz.
MR. BRAZ: Yes.
MR. BOCAGE: Mr. Eugene Lepore.
MR. LEPORE: Yes.
MR. BOCAGE: And Chair Rutala.
MR. RUTALA: Yes.
MR. BOCAGE: The motion is approved.
MR RUTALA: Okay; the next order of business is the capital requests.

The first department is the Department of Environmental Protection. They have 116 projects; the 2020 request is for $1,056,229,000.

Any discussion on that request?
MS. BRENNAN: Can we just get confirmation that this is -- these lists are in priority order?

ADRIENNE KREIPKE: Yes, they are in priority order.

MS. BRENNAN: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiMAIO: I just have a quick question with the DEP, under the Division of Fish and Wildlife. You have, on page 37 -- the first item talks about lake dredging. Now, I don’t know how high that is; it must not be very high on priority, but I notice Columbia Lake is on there.
And that’s up in my County, and it was my understanding they were going to take that dam down and that lake will just become a river.

Can we get clarification on whether that needs to still be on the list?

MS. KREIPKE: Can I get back to you on that?

ASSEMBLYMAN DiMAIO: Yes.

Unless they weren’t taking the dam down and taking that hydroelectric power plant out; but they are.

MR. RUTALA: Good point.

Any other questions or comments? (no response)

If not, we’ll move on to the Department of Health. Their Fiscal Year 2020 request is for $38,044,000.

Any discussion; questions?

MS. BRENNAN: Is there a discussion, because I don’t think everybody can hear it.

MR. RUTALA: Are there any questions? (no response)

If not, we’ll move on to the Department of Human Services.

Any discussion on their requests? (no response)

Hearing none, we’ll continue.

Interdepartmental; Fiscal Year 2020 request is $181,762,000.

Any discussion? (no response)

I have a general question.

The first priority is the Justice Complex; and there are a significant amount of energy permits. Is the State considering an Energy Savings Improvement Plan for these improvements?
MS. BRENNAN: That’s something we’re currently discussing; trying to put together a plan for a comprehensive energy plan.

MR. RUTALA: Okay; thanks, Cathy.

It was just a good way of financing these projects without taking out debt, or using savings.

Okay; any other questions regarding Interdepartmental accounts? (no response)

If not, we’ll move on to Public Broadcasting Authority.

Any questions? (no response)

If not, we’ll go on to Higher Education.

MR. LEPORE: I have a question on the Public Broadcasting Authority.

My question is regarding whether or not there are any funds available in the Public Broadcasting Trust that could possibly cover these expenses.

RICHARD WILLIAMS: The Trust Fund account is nearly depleted. So the answer is “no.”

MR. LEPORE: Thank you.

MR. RUTALA: Any other questions? (no response)

If not, we’ll move on to Higher Education.

Rutgers University’s requests; any questions or comments? (no response)

Okay; hearing none, we’ll go on.

New Jersey Institute of Technology; any comments or questions? (no response)
Thomas Edison State University; any comments or questions of their requests? (no response)
Rowan University? (no response)
New Jersey City University; any comments or questions? (no response)
Kean University? (no response)
William Patterson University; any comments or questions? (no response)
Montclair State University; any comments? (no response)
The College of New Jersey; any comments or questions? (no response)
Ramapo College? (no response)
Stockton University; any comments or questions? (no response)
University Hospital; any comments or questions? (no response)
Okay.
Any other business?
MR. PATELLA (Commission Assistant Executive Director): Excuse me; I would ask that the representatives from Higher Education -- if they could just provide an update on the Building Our Future bond projects. A chart was distributed to the Capital Commission members on the list of projects, and we just wanted to get an update on that.

ANGELA BETHEA: It’s a $150 million bond for the General Obligation bond, Building Our Future; $686 million has been spent to date. And right now, the remaining balance is around $64 million in total, for both cycles.
MR. PATELLA: Okay, thank you; thank you, Angela.

MS. BETHEA: Thank you.

SENATOR SARLO: A question on the bond summary that was distributed with the agenda. The allocation balance of $14 million -- is that money that’s been -- those institutions still have available to spend on those projects, or--

MS. BETHEA: Yes, it is.

SENATOR SARLO: Okay. Those projects have all been-- That is money that they plan on spending, I’m assuming, right? Like, for instance, Montclair State has two items here; a $485,000 and a $160,000. That’s money that’s ready to go out to vendors or to finish up the projects, correct?

MS. BETHEA: That is correct.

SENATOR SARLO: Okay; thank you.

MS. BETHEA: You’re welcome.

MR. RUTALA: Are there any other questions? (no response)

Okay; hearing none, our next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at 10 a.m. We’ll be meeting together; and we’ll be following up regarding the room location at the State House Annex.

Having no other business at this time, I ask for a motion to adjourn.

ASSEMBLYMAN DiMAIO: I’ll move that.

SENATOR SARLO: I’ll second it.

MR. RUTALA: Very good; okay.

I hope everyone has a nice holiday season, and we’ll meet back in February.
Thank you.

(MEETING CONCLUDED)